

*wife of Sakuro Kido, former JACL President*  
(NISEI)

Project I.D. No. 160

NAME: Kido, Mine DATE OF BIRTH: 1906 PLACE OF BIRTH: Riverside, Ca.  
Age: 69 Sex: F Marital Status: M Education: Junior College

PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Port of entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation/s: 1. Store Employee 2. Housewife 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of residence: 1. Riverside, Ca. 2. San Francisco, Ca. 3. Oakland, Ca.  
Religious affiliation: Christian Church 4. Berkeley, Ca. 5. Visalia, Ca.  
Community organizations/activities: Husband - President of JACL from 1940-46

EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of relocation center: Poston II, Arizona  
Dispensation of property: Government Warehouse Names of bank/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held in camp: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held outside of camp: \_\_\_\_\_  
Left camp to go to: Salt Lake City, Utah (In 1943)

POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: 1948  
Address/es: 1. Salt Lake City, Utah (5 yrs) 2. Los Angeles, Ca. (25 years)  
3. San Francisco, California  
Religious affiliation: Christian Church  
Activities: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 11/28/75 Place: San Francisco, Ca.  
*Translated H. TAKARABE*

*Release information P 62-63*



INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MINE KIDO



Name : Mrs. Mine Kido (nee:)  
Age : 70 years old.  
Date of Birth : 1906

Place of Birth : Riverside, Ca.

Major Occupation : Homemaker

Husband : Attorney at Law  
President of IACU at the  
time of World War II.

Comp. Poston

Date of Interview : 11/28/75

Place of Interview :

Interviewer : Rev. Heikachir Tobaku

Transcriber : "



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Q: I really appreciate this opportunity to ask you questions.

A: Oh, what ever information I can supply you with, I'll do my best.

Q: Oh, I really appreciate that. First of all what is your name, please?

A: Mine.

Q: Where were you born?

A: Riverside, California.

Q: When were you born?

A: 1906.

Q: Were you raised there?

A: I was raised there. I finished Jr. College there, too.

Q: What kind of things do you remember in your childhood? - Say in your elementary school period?

A: What kind of things are you talking about?

Q: Well, for instance, did you have to help your parents?

A: Yes. My father had a restaurant so I had to help him.

In fact, all the children had to help at the restaurant after school.

Q: How long did you help?



A: I worked there as long as I stayed in Riverside. I didn't work anywhere else.

Q:

Q: When did you come home from school?

A: I came home around 3:30pm and worked at the restaurant, and we all came home together so that would be about 9:00 pm. In my high school and Jr. College days I had to do my home work after I came back from the restaurant, after 9:00 pm. Seldom I was able to do home work at the restaurant. Whenever a customer came in, I had to serve him.

Q: How long were you able to study after that?

A: Well, I'll tell you. My mother was so strict that she wouldn't let us stay up too late. We usually had to quit by 10:00 or 10:30 pm, so we really didn't have much time to study. That's why I had to rush through my study <sup>ice</sup> and <sup>was</sup> never able to <sup>anything</sup> do thoroughly. my lessens were not thoroughly prepared, ~~you might say.~~

Q: Did you like to study?

A: Yes, I did. ~~So~~ I was always provoked because my parents would not let me stay up late to study. You know I did not speak English when I went to school first. So until ~~my~~ <sup>the</sup> third grade, my grades were very poor, because I only spoke Japanese. And then as I progressed, I lost all my Japanese; I hardly remembered any.



Q: When you entered elementary school, did you have any other difficulties? Do you remember any hardships or things like you didn't understand what teacher was talking about?

A: Yes. When I started kindergarten, it was terrible. I was very embarrassed.

Q: Did you cry a lot?

A: Well, I don't recall, but I was lonesome, because I was the only Japanese. My school mates were all white, except for a few ~~M~~exicans and in my lower grades there <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ no ~~N~~egros. In fact there was a special school where ~~N~~egros had to go to. Most of them ~~did~~ lived in that district and they could only go to that school.

Q: Do you remember any experiences of ~~being~~ <sup>ion?</sup> rejected or discriminated <sup>ion?</sup>?

A: Yes. I had just one or two people that I got friendly with, <sup>their friendship</sup> and I retained ~~them~~ all through ~~my~~ school. And well, I haven't seen one of my friends for quite a few years now. I understand <sup>through my sister</sup> that she still inquires ~~my sister~~ about me <sup>am</sup> if I ~~were~~ <sup>am</sup> alright. I had a friend after I start driving. We used to come home together, I used to bring her home. But she used to be ashamed of driving in my old Ford with me. ~~But~~ I never thought anything of it, <sup>Because</sup> as friends we were alright. But it looked to me that she was ashamed of being seen with me in that car. Of course it was that old Model T and she used to shrink in the car.



But then, she used to come and wait for me. We used to go to school together and come home together. It was in my high school <sup>days</sup> ~~period~~.

Q: Do you remember any happy occasions in your elementary school period?

A: I had some good teachers. I liked my music teacher. I learned how to read notes from her. Then I had <sup>a</sup> very nice teacher.

Q: You were a very good student, weren't you?

A: Yes, after <sup>the</sup> fourth grade I got pretty good. In fact I did fourth and fifth <sup>grade</sup> ~~grade~~ together in one year. And then sixth <sup>grade</sup> grade. I had to go to another school for seventh grade. And then high school, when I graduated from high school, I was on the honor roll. The grading then was very strict, and with my English of course, I had a difficult time. My teacher in <sup>the</sup> Junior year in high school didn't like Japanese. But otherwise I could have gotten <sup>an</sup> A in that course, but I didn't. We had what they called honor roll and honorable mention. The honor roll was for the first 10, and ~~the~~ honorable mention was the next ten. At that time I was in the honorable mention, I was NO. 17. And yet, my grades were 65 % A's. ~~And to~~ be on the honor roll, if you are a girl (of course I went to a girl's high school), they were all above 90 (%) because my class was all smart. If I were in the boys' high school I probably stood ~~up~~ higher.



~~was pretty smart. If I had been in a class below, I stood~~  
~~up higher.~~ But then, most of my friends were smart. And ~~the~~  
 first ten were way in the 90's. But then when I asked <sup>the</sup> boys  
 when I graduated ~~...during the graduation (boys' high school~~  
~~and girls' high school had~~ <sup>a</sup> joint graduation) well, goodness  
 for the first ten they were even 50% A's, so it didn't show  
 how high up girls really were.

And when I wanted to go to Junior college, my mother said  
 that high school was enough. My father said that ~~even if~~  
 I went on to college, I wouldn't have a chance in America  
~~because~~, especially if you were a girl, because prejudices  
 were too strong, and we wouldn't get good jobs, Especially  
 teaching, because that <sup>was</sup> ~~that~~ what I wanted to do. I wanted to  
 become a language teacher. But my father...he didn't think  
 that I would have a chance.

Q: What kind of language did you want to teach? Japanese?

A: No. Any foreign language, if I could get in. I took 4 years  
 of Spanish and three years of ~~Latin~~ <sup>Latin</sup>, besides four years of  
 English in high school. And then when I went to Junior  
 College, I took two years of English and two years of French.  
 So my language background was adequate.

Q: So your parents did let you go to Junior College.

A: Oh, yes. I practically ~~fight~~ <sup>fought</sup> to go. And then I had to  
 work like mad to go, because I should be helping. Well, I



guess I should be helping, because my father was having a hard time. And there was a depression. See, I had a brother who was going <sup>to</sup> college; he was going to a Medical School. So it was pretty hard for my father. Especially ~~since~~ he had six children in the family and he was running his restaurant by himself. Of course my mother was helping too. She start helping later in the year. I remember that when he ~~started~~ first, he had several cooks. But ~~the~~ times got harder, you know, and my father could not afford to hire cooks, so my mother became a cook. ~~In~~fact she was better than most of those cooks.

Q: I would like to go back to your younger time. What do you remember about sad events.

~~A: Well,~~

A: Well, I'll tell you one thing that happened that made me feel bad and made me afraid of my neighbors. <sup>It</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>when</sup> ~~that~~ my father was fighting a case in court. He bought a house in <sup>the</sup> children's name, ~~my name~~, my sisters and my younger brothers to show an alien father could buy land in the name of his children for the sake of his children. And it took him three years to fight that case and finally won. It happened when I was in second or third grade and until 1919. I think ~~it~~ went up to the State Supreme Court. He <sup>won the judgement</sup> ~~did win~~ that a father could buy land in the name of his children. When I was going to school in those days, I used to be afraid to walk the street to go to school, because kids made fun of me. In fact my sister and I used to walk pretty scared down the street.



We always felt that they stick dogs on us because there were some dogs in our neighbourhood. Any time we were walking down the street, you know, they start barking and chasing us. And then there was a nice lady who offered us a basket of fruits and my mother said, "Don't ever accept any food from neighbours." Because while the case was going on, you know, a delegation of neighbours came over and talked to my parents because they wanted my father to give up that property. They didn't want us living there.

I remember when they came in. I was really afraid, then. I think I was only around eight or nine years old. That was the time when my daughter went to Camp. I ~~ment~~<sup>meant</sup> the same age. May be you should read up on the Harada Decision.

Q: Do you think, then, this kind of feeling of injustice which was brought upon you by your white neighbors persisted on you.

A: No. Funny thing is that except <sup>for</sup> one neighbor, well, in ~~face~~<sup>fact</sup> there ~~was~~<sup>were</sup> two neighbors, who lived across the street from us, never did differ. Yah, people across the street from us never did get friendly with us. But the people who lived on our side of the street became very friendly with us. The lady who was most persistant was a civil war veteran's wife, and she became a widow and <sup>was</sup> living all alone. My mother used to send her food. I remember my mother used to send a turkey dinner on Thanksgiving Day, and I think we were the only family who ~~were~~<sup>was</sup> doing that for this old lady. She



next door to us. And then there were <sup>a</sup>couple of old ladies a few door over. We became very friendly with them. Then the people on the other side, her husband was a barber and she used to be beautician but she retired early. They were very nice to us. And then the funny thing is the family who were across the street from us were Germans, and yet they were the one who were meanest, you know. And the lady who was at the corner, she was very persistant about us not living there.

But, oh we found bad neighbors and good neighbors, too. But then they were across the street and we were never across the street, so we could not get friendly with them. We just didn't associate with them. Beside, my parents worked all day and were never home. We always came home at night. So...and then none of us ~~never ran~~ around the neighborhood, because we weren't there, so they had no reason to be so vicious in their attitude toward us. I guess they just didn't like the idea <sup>of</sup> ~~that~~ foreign elements coming in.

Q: May be you could tell me about your parents.

A: My father was a normal school graduate from Japan. And my mother, I think she had a hard time in Japan. She came from a Samurai family. When she got married to my father, my father suddenly decided ( he was teaching school in Japan and life was too confining there ) ~~decided~~ with his friends to join the US navy and came to America. So they worked on <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ Navy boat and he was on the coast guard cutter that went up



and down the Pacific Coast. And then my mother and oldest brother who was Arlene's father, remained in Japan all the time while my father was in the Navy. That was in Fukuoka. I guess it was four or five years. My mother didn't join my father until my brother was 6 years old. I think ~~he~~<sup>he</sup> was 5 or 6 when he came to the America. He was born in Japan.

Then my father who was on this coast guard cutter, but then, negro stewards in the navy were stricking for higher pay. And then onetime when the boat was in San Francisco, Japanese busboys and stewards had taken a day off and couldn't get back on the boat<sup>x</sup> because ~~negros~~<sup>the negros</sup> didn't let them. They were threatened ~~that~~ if they came back in<sup>x</sup> because those negros didn't <sup>want</sup> Japanese on because they wanted all negros in there, and they wanted to save all the jobs for themselves. ~~Because~~ <sup>the</sup> they were stricking for higher pay and Japanese weren't going for that. I guess <sup>the</sup> Japanese figured that having <sup>a</sup> job was better than trying to ask for ~~the~~ higher pay. They were thinking of the job <sup>rather</sup> than <sup>the</sup> higher pay, I mean <sup>the</sup> Japanese. So <sup>the</sup> Negros chased all <sup>the</sup> Japanese away. ~~That's~~<sup>So</sup> how my father was not able to get back on the boat. Ever since then my father had been trying to get considered as a Spanish War veteran, because this happened around 1898 and subsequent years. He also wanted to get citizenship. And then they told him finally around 1935 or 1938, any way a few years before the war broke out, they finally told him that he could have gotten Citizenship if he <sup>had</sup> served 13 more days. So he never got his citizenship.



But never did he ever say that he didn't want his citizenship. He wanted it and he felt that he should have it because he was in the US navy at the time of the Spanish-American War. That's my parents' background.

Q: Not very many Japanese weren't <sup>brave</sup> ~~breave~~ enough to fight things in ~~a~~ court. He must have <sup>been</sup> ~~had~~ a good farsight<sup>ed</sup> or at least he had ~~a~~ guts.

A: No. He had some good American friends and they told him to go ahead and fight it. And in my hometown there was a man who used to run that famous Riverside Mission Inn, Frank Miller, ~~He~~ told my father, "I cannot help you because I havn't got <sup>the</sup> ~~means~~. ~~to~~ But go to see my brother ~~who~~ who will help you. ~~So~~ ~~go to see him~~. I think his older brother's name was Ed Miller and he went over to see Ed Miller and he said, "Sure go ahead and fight it." If you need money or if they try to take away your land from you, I'll buy it. Then you can live there." Then, he got ~~him~~ an attorney, and this attorney, <sup>said</sup> ~~sure~~ he'd help ~~him~~ to fight the case. ~~So he got this attorney and got started it.~~

I remember at that time that he appealed to the Japanese Association and Kenjinkai to help him out. They all said that they couldn't help him. So he went on his own. He didn't get anything from <sup>the</sup> Japanese community except from those who gave him ~~a~~ moral support. You know it's different ~~from~~ now because you have people like Edison Uno and others. Well, another thing was that there <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ some <sup>dissention</sup> ~~discensions~~ among



Japanese people. They didn't want my father to fight <sup>in court,</sup> ~~it~~.

I remember especially one man who belittled my father about the case. He never gave my father ~~a~~ credit for winning, ~~that~~ ~~case.~~

Q: That was concluded in 1919?

A: I think it was 1918 or 1919. I think it was 1919 because it was right after I started ~~my~~ high school. It was right after I started high school, when the State Supreme Court decided in favor of my father.

Q: Did you have a big celebration?

A: No, I don't recall. I know every time <sup>there was</sup> a court hearing, people from Los Angeles and all over, <sup>the</sup> Japanese and <sup>the</sup> Japanese press, used to come to my father's restaurant and discuss the case with my father. After each hearing they all came over to my father's restaurant and my father used to feed them all. They used to come in herds and I used to work like mad to feed those people. I was in grammar school, then, 7th or 8th grade.

Q: Do you think these Japanese press helped your father's cause?

A: Japanese press? One paper did not. I don't know, you would have to look it up. They are supposed to have all their records. May be you can look it up. I know that some of the papers did not give him a credit.



Q: Those people who didn't give him a credit, were those who were afraid of rocking the boat, or fearful of reprimand?

A: No, I think it was personal. I kind of think it was personal.

Q: They just didn't like your father?

A: Yes. They thought that my father was an upstart Japanese, you know, who should know better. But, you see, to tell you frankly, there were very few college educated men. There were only a few college educated men in my town and very few in Los Angeles, in those days. So because my father was a normal school graduate, so he wasn't considered, you know, right to take on such a chore.

Oh, yes. I should tell you this. You know the <sup>Hearst</sup>~~Hurst~~ Paper, they were very vicious about my family. They said that my father was a bigamist and he had left a family in Japan. His present wife was not his real wife and so forth, and ~~it~~ made it very unpleasant for my family. This happened during the case. I don't know any of the Japanese papers had anything to say about that, because I don't remember my father or mother <sup>dis</sup>~~were discussing about~~ what papers said, Except that one of the Japanese papers belittled my father about his case.

Q: When the restaurant was open<sup>d</sup>, how many tables and chairs were there?

A: Originally we had <sup>a</sup>very big place. I think our original restaurant seated around 100 people. He had a quite staff when I was a little girl. But it got harder, and we had to



move into a smaller place and we had, that was when I was in high school, we had lunch counter and also six or eight tables, so it was much smaller. It was run just by our family. We had no outside helps then. Before we used to have a quite <sup>a few</sup> ~~big~~ helps ~~ers~~.

Q: Was it a Japanese food?

A: No. It was "yoshoku", American food.

Q: What was the name of it?

A: Washington. My father was very patriotic. He was very American. He had all kinds of pictures of presidents all over the wall. ~~He had~~ He got a job, later on, to feed prisoners at the city jail. His neighbor became a city police chief. It was a small jail and they figured it would be cheaper ~~to~~ than having your own cook. He contracted for 25¢ per meal and fed prisoners. He fed morning and dinner meals. He had to take them in big cartons <sup>or</sup> ~~of~~ baskets and take them over to them. This was after the case, when I was going to high school.

Q; You mentioned something about a depression started around 1919 and 1920.

A: That's when they had <sup>a</sup> flu epidemic and it was right after ~~the~~ World War I and there was ~~a~~ very severe inflation and things got awfully hard. And then people were very poor. But the big depression ~~was~~ started in 1929 and went through 1933. It really went till 1936. Things weren't always good, you know.



Q: Now, when you had to move from the bigger restaurant to the smaller place, was it a sad occasion for you?

A: Yes, because we were having a hard time in those days. And my father, when he was running the big restaurant, he also had three hotels (rooming house) so he was quite busy, you know. That was before we moved into our house, you see. And when we moved into our house, after we fixed it, he gave up <sup>the</sup> hotels, because my mother couldn't run <sup>them</sup> it. In any case he couldn't keep it up. It was too hard for him.

Q: Then, after and during the high school, what kind of things do you remember from that period?

A: I never went out anywhere. I had to work all the time. No dates, because my mother was always very strict so I never got to go out. I did <sup>go</sup> ~~went~~ out once or twice, but that's all. And then, but I was allowed to go to movies and plays which were recommended by the school. My father was very strict about reading magazines. Very strict, reading novels, too. He didn't believe in it. But I don't know why he was so strict with me, he wasn't strict with <sup>the</sup> boys! I think they got mellow as he got older, because he couldn't buck the <sup>tide</sup> ~~tie~~ anymore. He couldn't be so strict because <sup>use</sup> ~~because~~ things were moving, you know. Too many things were going on, radio and others. When I was ~~little~~ we didn't have a radio because people didn't fool around with radios until we were in high <sup>School</sup> ~~school~~, in 1920's. Before that unless a fellow made it up with pieces of crystal set, why nobody had any radios.



Oh, yes. My father was a Christian and we had to go to church every Sunday. In fact I had to go to church three times every Sunday, because we used to go to American church in the morning and then in the afternoon I went to Japanese church and in the evening I had to go to Christian <sup>Endeavor</sup> Endeavor, which was the young people's meeting.

Q: Which Japanese church?

A: Riverside, Ah it was Methodist originally, and then it became Congregationalist, it was what they called <sup>a</sup> Federated Church. In the Sunday School, when I went to high school, I had to take care of the Sunday School report and treasury <sup>is</sup> report. So in a way I was practically tied down to the church. I used to teach Sunday School, too.

Q: When did your parents become Christians?

A: Gee, I don't know. ~~As~~ far as I can remember they were Christians. My mother said that she was Zen (Buddhist), when she was in Japan. But in Riverside we never had a Buddhist Church, you know. I don't think there is one even now. So if <sup>they</sup> ~~they~~ wanted to go to Buddhist church, <sup>would</sup> they have to go to Los Angeles. And my parents were baptized...well, I can't recall, but I was baptized when I was only 5 or 6 years old.

Q: Do you remember anything <sup>that</sup> happened at the Restaurant?

A: Yes, I tell you, My father fed everybody! We had negros, we had <sup>an</sup> Indians because we had <sup>an</sup> Indian school in Riverside. It was called Sherman Institute in Arlington and everytime



they used to come out on their day off or any kind of holiday, they came into the town, and our restaurant was the only<sup>one</sup> which would feed them. So we were very busy feeding Indian boys. These were the real Indians, you know. That was the Government School, Sherman Institute. And they used to come in and we used to feed them, and my father fed all the Mexicans and fed all the Negros, and Hindus, because none on those could go to any white restaurant. They wouldn't serve them. And so because we had all kinds of races eating at our restaurant a ~~white~~<sup>white</sup> person would come and and see the kind of people in there and then they walk<sup>ed</sup> right out. So they missed ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> good meal. Yes, because I've eaten<sup>in</sup> some of the white restaurants, and I'll tell you, my mother was<sup>a</sup> better cook than any place in there. And ~~then~~<sup>a</sup> white customers we had, they were all regular customers. They were just like ~~the~~ permanent customers, because they came in all the time and they always got the best food. Nobody could beat my mother's fried chicken or my mother<sup>ed</sup>~~ed~~ fried fish. She made<sup>the</sup> best in town. I know that because I tast<sup>ed</sup> them all.

Q: Because of those racial things, ~~were~~<sup>was</sup> ~~they~~<sup>there</sup> any violence at the restaurant?

A: No, only one time when they were fighting<sup>the</sup> California Land Law in 1920. I remember I was in the restaurant and my father had put up a big poster up which said, "Keep California Green, Vote so and so (I don't know what the name of the law was at that time), I think it<sup>had</sup> some number, any way what did they call which had leases in 1920? Any way it one of those land laws. Japanese



couldn't get leased land any more.) Well, I don't remember any more, but as soon as he put that up, I think some body squalled and the chief of police came over and told to my father. "Please, we don't want any violence and these people are very angry. So will you please take it down." And he talked to my father as a friend, because my father knew him well. So, though my father didn't want to take it down, but for the sake of peace, he said he would take it down. But you know <sup>the</sup> Japanese Association slapped those posters on every signpost every place they could put them up. But then, Japanese lost on that one. Those were really scary days.

Q: By that time you were 14 or 15 years old. At that time there were quite <sup>a</sup> few women <sup>coming</sup> into the State.

A: Yes. Some of my friends were picture brides. Mrs. Inaba was, too. Any way, she was awfully young to be a bride. She was only 18.

Q: Do you remember anything which happened to those picture brides?

A: Yes. She was happily married but she had to work awfully hard because she was afraid of her in-laws. She was so afraid of her mother-in-law, so she really worked hard. She was such a dainty woman, you know, that it was really sad to see such a dainty woman working so hard in the field. You know her husband was a very kind fellow, but he never thought anything of it, because he was working hard, too.



And then there were some who found it hard, so they left their husbands.

Q: Many Issei women told me about many ~~stragic~~ stories of those picture brides. Do you remember any of their stories?

A: Most of them were happily married. They may have suffered hardships, but they managed to stay together. I heard of some cases where a wife ran off and there <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ shooting and so on. But I don't know what happened to those people afterwards. I remember there was one couple, in fact there were two couples where there <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ shooting, but I don't know what happened to them afterwards.

Q: Who is shooting whom?

A: Well, the former husbands are the ones who <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ shooting. Of course I know one man who was so afraid that his wife might run away <sup>that</sup> ~~so~~ he locked her up in the house when he went to work. That one I knew about. She couldn't have gone away. There weren't enough Japanese people to run away with. But he used to lock her up and unlock her ~~re~~ when he came back. And then I remember one day he came over and told my father that it's alright now and it's safe because she was pregnant. But she wasn't a young woman, either. She was very close to forty when she came. That was a sad case, because they had a little boy, and then they had another baby girl and they were happily married and he was very good to her, because he used to bring her out, you know. Every weekend he used to bring her out and they had dinner at my father's place. You



know, very few Japanese husbands took their wives out, you know. He was the only one who used to bring his wife over and had a dinner. He used to bring here every week. Well, what happened was that they found him dead and his car was burned, and he was found dead in the car. We don't know just what had happened. So she took her two children and went back to Japan.

They found his car way inside a park and nobody had found what had happened. May be he had a heart attack and you know he might have been smoking, because he used to smoke. He might have had a heart attack while he was smoking in the car.

Q: Your father's restaurant must have been a information gathering house, right?

A: Yes. My father had a coffee ~~clotches~~ every morning, so farmers brought produce every morning and my father had to "yack" with them every morning. And then there was a man who had a store away out of the town, Casablanca, he used to come in for his orders and he used to stay ~~there~~, too. All had a good time. That's how <sup>the</sup> community knew what was going on without any other communication because they didn't have any papers except the paper which came from Los Angeles. But there was no local paper for us. That's why they got together. Or they also had Tanomoshi, or Nihonjin-Kai. My father was the president of the Nihonjin-Kan for number of years, but then in 1940 this Nihonjin-Kai became very nationalistic, very pro-Japan. My



father protested that. ~~and~~ then they started making one <sup>thousand</sup> ~~thousand~~ stiches ~~es~~ belly-warmers (Sennin Bari), and they started to collect funds for the veterans of <sup>the</sup> Manchurian War and he protested that. He told them that that was going against the times, especially when America was suspicious about Japanese, they shouldn't do anything that would <sup>seem</sup> ~~reflect~~ only nationalistic (movements) because they weren't doing just that. They weren't anti-American, ei~~h~~her, but it would reflect as nationalistic and my father protested ~~about~~ it, and because he did, they kicked him out of the Nihonjin-Kai. He was forced out of the Japanese Association. Especially when they started to gather funds, my father protested that there were poor Japanese and so he said "Let's try to take care of the poor in this country first." Bec~~u~~ase he said those things, they kicked him out of the Japanese Association. And I think that was the only reason why he wasn't picked up when the Pearl Harbor Attack came. Because right after that all Japanese who were any kind of leaders, in any community were picked up by <sup>the</sup> FBI. Well, his name was not on the Japanese Association list. So they didn't pick him up. And yet, <sup>the</sup> Japaense were so mean to my father. I mean all those people who were his friends, they called him "Inu (dog)". Because he wasn't picked up like the rest of them. And it was because they kicked him out already.

Q: When was he asked to leave the Association?

A: Around 1940, before the War started. Because you see they were busy <sup>working</sup> ~~doing~~ for <sup>the</sup> Japanese Red Cross and all those others and they



were really worked up about helping Japan, you know. So he got kicked out. But you know people forget that and when I visited a woman in the Camp, she said, "Your father was an Inu." She said that's why my husband was still in Christal City or something <sup>in</sup> ~~is~~ New Mexico, oh yeah, Roseburg. She said that was due to my father, you know. She kept saying that to me.

Q: I would like to go back a little. Between 1920 and 1930 that I'm interested in. When did you get marry?

A: In 1929.

Q: Do you remember anything around 1924?

A: I was going <sup>to</sup> Jr. College.

Q: That was the time when Japanese could not come to the USA any more.

A: Oh, yeah. That was when Ambassador Tanihara said that it would cause ~~a~~ dire consequences or something. He was talking about the Gentleman's Agreement or something. I forgot what the News ~~p~~aper said about that. In any case he said something about it would argue <sup>future</sup> ~~future~~ relationships or something. The senators were really angry about that. They thought that it was ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> threat, but he meant that it was the beginning <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>worsening</sup> ~~worsening~~ relationships. It meant that it would be very hard to clear <sup>up</sup> ~~up~~ the misunderstanding or messy relationships <sup>up</sup> ~~up~~ by passing such a ~~legislation~~ <sup>a</sup> severe law. It was more of <sup>a</sup> ~~a~~ racial



slur.

Q: After you graduated from Jr. College, what did you do?

A: I left home. I worked all summer at Asilomar with the College YW and finished my summer there, then I came to San Francisco because my older brother promised <sup>that I could</sup> ~~me to~~ go to UC Berkeley, because I was admitted to attend the University. I was going into my Jr. year. Well then, when I came out he said that he couldn't afford to help me, and my father said that if my brother cannot help me, he couldn't help me <sup>either</sup> ~~either~~. So then I decided to go to work. I would work, then if possible, I would go back to <sup>school</sup> ~~work~~ later. Well, after I started working, I met Mr. Kido and (When did I get engaged to you, any way?). I think it was a year before we got married. So it must be 1927. In 1928 we got married.

Q: Was Mr. Kido already <sup>an</sup> attorney then?

A: Yes. He became an attorney in 1926 just a few months before I met him. I met him in September or October, a month or two before I came up to San Francisco. I think it was October of 1926 and he had graduated in June of 1926 from a Law school (Hastings). He went to Cal and graduated from Hastings and he was...The way I met him was through my older brother. He and my older brother <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ good friends. My older brother was just like his older brother to him. My older brother <sup>had</sup> just graduated from U.C. Medical school in 1925, and he had started <sup>a</sup> ~~a~~ practice in San Francisco. So I met him at my brother's place.



Q: What did you think about him when you saw him for the first time? Did you think he was a very promising young man?

A: No...(Laugh) I never was serious with him till later. He and his friend used to come over and we had more fun arguing. You know discussing things. Then I was working, too. I worked on Grand Avenue, <sup>an</sup> art goods store. I worked for several (stores) and after I got married, I continued working. And then the Grand Avenue Store was having a hard time, you know, because it was 1929. So they were letting <sup>go</sup> ~~out~~ their staff~~s~~ and then I got sick so I quit working. Then Mr. Kido said, "Well, there aren't any good jobs, so why don't you go back to school." So I went back to school. I went to the State Teachers' College. And then I wasn't very well. I had very low blood pressure and I wasn't feeling good. And So I...

Q: That art store, was it a Japanese store?

A: Yes, it was a Japanese store. Then after I went to school then I got sick again and I quit. There was a friend who was going to school, a dental school. He was having a hard time. Because he was running low on funds, you know, to continue to go to school. So Mr. Kido asked me if I would go back to work, so that this young man would have money to go to school, because he was a friend of his. So I got a job and borrowed money. I borrowed 1,500 dollars from a friend and gave the money to this boy and he finished school. I worked for a year and a half to pay that money back. That boy became a dentist. Then after that I lost one baby and <sup>then had</sup> ~~got~~ the oldest daughter.



I <sup>had</sup> ~~got~~ three children, altogether. Two boys and a girl.

Q: Do you remember anything from the Depression time?

A: Yes. My daughter was born in November, 1933. And before I got pregnant in 1931 and 1932, you know, I was going to the State Teachers College. You know those days when I was going to school, people were out of work, people used to have businesses had to sell apples on the street for 5¢ each, because they didn't have money and no jobs, and banks closed. People who had money in <sup>the</sup> Savings and Loan ~~had~~ lost every thing. When they did open, they got 10¢ on a dollar. They had what they called Mores Plan and all those people went broke.

Q: Mr. Kido was doing alright?

A: Are you kidding? When we got married I was making \$100 a month, working on ~~the~~ Grand Ave. That was ~~a~~ good pay, because most of the people were getting \$60 to \$65 while I was making \$100 a month. Mr. Kido, when I married him, do you know his average income was? \$40 dollars. That's why he married me. When my brother was going to college, he was going on <sup>a bill</sup> GI, because he was <sup>in the</sup> ~~on~~ 442, and he used up all his <sup>benefits</sup> GI, and (wasn't he in Korean War, too?) then Mr. Kido put my brother through college, (a dental school.) We helped a few more boys to go to school. (I did get that \$1,500 back from him after he became a dentist.)

Q: How long did Mr. Kido have rough time in the beginning?

A: He always had rough time. He is not a money maker (laugh).



He is a person, ~~who~~, all his friends say, is the person who would give you his last shirt off his back if they needed it. He was always like that, because he... You know after the war, he was supporting two families in Japan. His sister's family and his own brother's family. And then he called his sister's family to this country as refugees from China, because they left China with only <sup>the</sup> things <sup>that</sup> they could carry in their two hands and they were evacuated to Japan from China during <sup>the</sup> War, and they lost everything. He had <sup>a</sup> business in China and he lost that. It was called Chintaw.

Q: After you got married, which was in 1929, you had <sup>a</sup> rough time during the depression ~~time~~. Do you remember any incidents?

A: Yes. One man came and <sup>tried</sup> ~~try~~ to shoot daddy. Because he thought that he didn't help him enough trying to save his hotel. The man couldn't pay his rent. He had a lease and he had two or three months deposit and the last month of his fees and he wanted to apply that to his present lease. Well, you know they never do that. He couldn't make that man understand that. So after he told him that he couldn't do anything about that for him he came over to our house. ~~and~~ I was pregnant with Michan, and I was in 7 or 8 months pregnant and I was almost ready for delivery, when he came over. That was in 1933. He came over with a huge gun. It was a pistol~~s~~, but it looked very huge. He confronted Mr. Kido and he said that he wasn't helping him enough to save his hotel<sup>el</sup>. He was an old Japanese. He was very 'kawaiiso' (<sup>pitiable</sup> ~~sorrowful~~). He grabbed his gun. I didn't know how he did it. He told this man, "Don't be so foolish." or



something. There was nothing he could do about it. There were lots of cases like that.

Q: During the Depression ~~time~~ how much was he able to earn?

A: I don't know. He never did tell me how much he was earning.

Q: Who handled the finances?

A: He wouldn't let me handle the finances because I would worry.

Then my mother sent me \$150 to pay for my hospital when the baby came. Well, he said to loan it to him, so I loaned it to him. And then when the time came for me to go to hospital, I wanted the money back, he said "I cannot give it back to you because I invested it in stocks. How do you think we've been living. We <sup>had</sup> ~~have~~ been living on the proceeds from the selling and buying stocks for so many months. He said that he had built it up with that \$150." Well, it's an awful thing to say. Then when I asked him to give it back to me, it was too late. When he tried to phone his broker <sup>that</sup> ~~on that~~ morning, his line was very busy. He thought well, he <sup>would</sup> ~~get~~ it later, because he was busy, too. Then when he called, it was too late ~~x~~ because the market broke and all the stocks wouldn't sell. So he lost everything. He couldn't get it back because it was too late. So I don't know how we paid our hospital fee. Yeah, that was terrible. And in the mean time, we belonged to a Tanomoshi with a group of friends and we used <sup>to</sup> ~~save~~ \$25 a month <sup>would</sup> ~~each~~ family <sup>could</sup> ~~can~~ take a turn so that we <sup>could</sup> ~~can~~ help each other out. I don't know if young kids do that anymore, but you know it was when we were young and all got together and borrowed



money from each other that way. And we took tanomoshi and sent for his brother to come to America. And after they came well, his sister spent a year or two in Hawaii. Well, both of them spent about two years in Hawaii. Anyway they spent sometime in Hawaii. While they were there, his sister decided that she was going to learn American ways by working in a family. So she went to work for a nice Hawaiian family. She didn't know, you see. Well, Mr. Kido's older brother live in Hawaii (Honolulu), and they stayed there. And while they were there she found a job with a Hawaiian family. It was <sup>a</sup> Hawaiian royal family. Well, she didn't know until she start working there that the lady of the house had ~~an~~ active ~~tuberculosis~~ <sup>tuberculosis</sup> ~~tobaculosis~~. She contracted it and then younger brother got it from her. We didn't know it and we didn't know she worked in the place like that until she came to San Francisco. She told us about her job but we didn't think she had contracted it. But after they'd been with us about a year and a half. My brother told me that it takes 2 years to incubate. Sure enough it came out and both of them whom he had sent for got ~~tuberculosis~~ <sup>tuberculosis</sup> ~~tobaculosis~~. And you know we went through an awful time after that. Every cent that he earned went to pay for the hospital for both. We didn't know better; we were young. And we suffered. They had very active TB and we sent them to a private hospital in Ross in Marine county. It was ~~a~~ beautiful county. It ~~was costing~~ us \$250 a month for each. Mr. Kido borrowed from everybody he knew to pay for that. And after 6 or 8 months there, we just couldn't borrow money anymore. There was



no other place we could borrow and so we asked my brother what he could do, whether we could get them into a county (Hospital) or not. And then finally we were able to get them into a county hospital in San Francisco. That was terrible. We should <sup>have</sup> put them into the county <sup>hospital</sup> right from the beginning because we could never <sup>have</sup> had enough money to take care of them in <sup>a</sup> private hospital. For one thing we didn't know was that the kind of TB both had was very progressive. And that in those days, you know, they didn't have those wonder drugs. And we finally put them in a county <sup>hospital</sup> and then they weren't getting any better. So they decided, doctors decided that sister might be saved if she had this radical surgery. Well, she said she didn't want that done. She refused it. Then they told her that if she refused it, they couldn't take care of her any more. So she said, "I will go back to Japan." We didn't let her go, but since it was her wish, we had to let her go. And now the younger brother, he was such a brilliant fellow. Because you know for a short while he was with us, he did so well in his English, or he used to write the most beautiful compositions. He was ~~ad~~mitted into Cal. And he started in September, but he had ~~the~~ collaps<sup>ed</sup> in December from a pneumonia. And then they found that he had this active TB. The doctor told us that the TB had gone through the whole system. It was in all his organs, so there was no way to save him. It was a matter of time. And we couldn't tell that to him. It was so sad. He said he wanted to go back to Japan, too. So we sent them both back. Then sister felt good after she went back for a while. And when the sold<sup>i</sup>ers got ready



to go to Manchuria, she was helping. She did lots of volunteer jobs. But it was too much for her. She died in <sup>the</sup> late 30's. His brother died in just a few years. His was so bad that doctors said that there was no way to cure him. Of course they could now, you know, because they have these strictmicine and all these new anti-biotics and these PAS. PAS was what saved his sister-in-law, you know, after the war. We had that broblem, too. After the war, he took care of his two families, his sisters family and his brothers family. So all our married life, all <sup>3</sup> we did was to help somebody else.

Q: Where were you when the Pearl Habor was attacked?

A: In Berkeley. We lived in Berkeley.

Q: Did you live in Berkeley all the time?

A: No. We lived in San Francisco from 1928 to 1935. And from 1935 to 1938 we lived in Oakland. From Oakland we moved to Berkeley. We moved to Free Area. You know one time after everybody was supposed to go to camps, they said that there ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> certain areas in central California where Japanese could go and they would be allowed to stay there. So we moved to Visalia from Berkeley in March 1942. And we were there three months and then we were frozen in and ordered to go to camp.

Q: Why did you moved <sup>from</sup> ~~to~~ San Francisco to Oakland?

A: Well, I tell you. Mr. Kido had a client in Oakland. This client was going to Japan. So he asked Mr. Kido if he would take care of his property. I think we took care of his car.



first and then we sold it for him and then he asked us to take care of his property because he couldn't sell it at that time. So in order to take care of the property, we had to move into it till we could sell it. And then we fixed it up and everything and we sold it for that person. And then <sup>with</sup> proceeds from that money we bought the house in Berkeley.

Q: ~~When the~~ Pearl Harbor was attacked, were you surprised?

A: Yes. I was shocked. I didn't know about it. Then someone telephoned us and told us to listen to the radio, that Japan was attacking Pearl Harbor. I said, "You are kidding. I can not believe it." Mr. Kido wasn't home. That was Sunday. He had gone to San Francisco, and he didn't have his radio on either. I called him and said, "Do you know what's going on? The radio says that <sup>the</sup> Japanese are attacking Pearl Harbor." He said, "Ah? I'll see." I guess he hung up and I don't know when he came back. Then my neighbor was from Japan, so I run over to tell her, you know. She said, "Atari mae de shyo!" (of course). I was shocked, because I didn't know she was going to talk like that. You know my neighbor had a short wave radio and they were listening to <sup>a</sup> Japanese radio cast so they seemed to know what was going on all the time. But I didn't know anything. She sounded like, "You, innocent Nisei!"

Then suddenly I realized that she was very pro-Japanese. Of course she, being from Japan, she had to be pro-Japan. She had 10, 12 children.



Q: Did you feel that Japanese Americans' lives might be in danger?

A: We had no idea what was going to happen. We never thought... we might be ostracized by our neighbors and may be you know we might have some kind of trouble, but I never had an idea that they might put us in camps.

Q: Do you remember anything which Mr. Kido said about Pearl Harbor attack?

A: Well, I tell you. He was in touch with FBI for a long time before that. He knew that they were tailing him all the time. Every time he made a visit to the <sup>consulate</sup>~~counselor~~, he used to call them up before he left and tell them, "You know I'm going to the <sup>consulate</sup>~~counselor~~ now. So I will let you know about it." They said, "All right. We will be there waiting for you." They used to kid with him, you know. But he used tell them always. When he came home, I forgot whom he came home with. I think somebody brought him home. You know across the bridge and everything. Before entering the bridge and everywhere cops stopped them and asked them where they were going. Then, you know, we had <sup>a</sup>curfew, so we couldn't travel after 6 pm. He was going to his office in San Francisco, but he had to come back before 6 pm.

Q: Did neighbors react in any way?

A: Well, most of them were Japanese. We were living in Berkeley except my next door neighbor who was white. I think she was from <sup>the</sup>south. She said, "Well, don't feel bad. In the south we had very tragic times too. During the Civil War brothers



fought against each other and I know <sup>what</sup> it's like." She was an older woman and she was <sup>from</sup> some southern state. She said <sup>that</sup> that's the way it was. But I had a forboding, I always felt that in August in 1941 when United states slapped <sup>an</sup> embargo against Japan and no more oil and scrap iron could be sent, <sup>then</sup> I thought that things were going to get worse, <sup>And</sup> then wasn't it around that time they slapped some kind of restriction on trade with Japan? I think <sup>the</sup> banks were also frozen, too. So it was ~~making~~ <sup>in</sup> harder for <sup>the</sup> Japanese ~~to do~~ any import-export business. Most of our friends were importers and so forth and we knew how hard it was for them. Mr. Kido was going all over trying to defend Japan. He made speeches all over, because he felt that it was their life line that they had to have trade and out ~~lets~~ for their goods. He knew that Japan was hemed in. Eversince Japan was trying to expand into South East Asia, he was defending Japan. He start doing that from around 1936. Even when Japan went into China, he try to defend her.

And then he spoke at the University of California and all over. ~~IN~~ fact when he spoke at the University, the University group was the honour socity. They <sup>made</sup> ~~gave~~ him an honorary member and gave him an honor society pin. He still has that.

Q: When did you move to Visalia.

A: March 29, 1942. That was the last day when you could move into the free area.



Q: How did you feel, then?

A: I cried, and cried. One of our best friends came over and said good by to us and had a bite to eat with us before we left, Mrs. Watson. Of course she ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> dead now.

Q: Than at that time you didn't think you had to move from Visalia.

A: No. So we took everything. Packed everything. Mr. Kido's ~~cosin~~ <sup>cosin</sup> was stranded and was with us. He tried to take ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> last ~~plane~~ <sup>plane</sup> to go back to Hawaii. He was the president of Mitsukoshi in Honolulu. But they wouldn't let him go back to Hawaii, because he was an alien. See, although he was born and educated in America, and lived practically all his life in America, he was born in Japan, you know. Of course he was <sup>a</sup> navy graduate, too. But he couldn't get citizenship. He was at the airport to take the last airplane <sup>he</sup> back to Hawaii, and then at the same time ~~The Burmese~~ <sup>The Burmese</sup> minister was trying to take the same ~~plane~~ <sup>plane</sup>. This man finally got off and he flew to Maui and he escaped. But this man got real friendly with Mr. Kido's ~~cosin~~ <sup>u</sup> and they said they should stick together and got really chummy. I think eventually that man was killed. He did become ~~a~~ <sup>The</sup> premier of Burma before he was killed.

But Mr. Kido's cousin coul<sup>d</sup>n't go and he stayed with us. The hotel <sup>where</sup> he stayed was padlocked by the government and closed up. All he had there <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ lost. I think it was vandalized, you know. He ~~loved~~ <sup>lived</sup> with us, but he was so good, because daddy couldn't do any packing for me, but he packed everything for



me. And he said, don't worry, because I know how. I'm <sup>an</sup> expert at it. Well, because you know he was with Mitsukoshi and he <sup>knew</sup> ~~know~~ how to pack things well. He packed every thing for me. And then he went to Camp, too. He said, when he saw me afterwards, "Japanese just don't realize how big America is. I had to go to Camp to find out." See, he got sent to Idaho, to Minidoka. The reason why he went there was because he had a distant cousin who was raised by his family and he thought since she was a widow with several small children, ~~so~~ he thought he should go to her and kind of look after her. So he went to Minidoka. While he was in Minidoka, he got really friendly with the Authority over there. He is that kind of person. They used to take him hunting and fishing all over the wilds of Idaho. He said, That's when I realized what a big boundless country this ~~is~~ is." He said, "Japanese don't know this. They were crazy to attack Pearl Harbor."

But I think that attack on Pearl Harbor ~~was~~ was not to conquer America, I think it was a vicious slap for all the indignity which they have been suffering, the <sup>way</sup> ~~was~~ Americans treated ~~them~~ the Japanese ever since they came to America. Because <sup>the</sup> military at least <sup>the</sup> ~~navy~~ knew how vast the resources of America were. Because...one of the Navy <sup>men</sup> ~~man~~ came from Japan before the war and lectured and said that <sup>the</sup> ~~Nisei~~ must serve America (Tsukusu) with all your heart. He told us to be loyal to America. I forgot who it was now. I know that Gen. Yamamoto knew that too. I don't think his heart was ~~never~~ in fighting, because he knew how big America was.



Q: How did you like <sup>Visalia</sup> ~~Viseria~~?

A: We were out in <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ sticks. We were in a farm laborer's house on an olive ranch. The house just leaked all over. I ~~ran~~ around during the night, you know it was the rainy season, and the night we got there <sup>it</sup> rained. I ~~ran~~ aound during the night, as soon as we got there, I put pans all over the house to catch the rain, so that it wouldn't wet our things. And then at that time all my children got <sup>the</sup> ~~measles~~. They were running a temperature and I didn't know what was wrong, so I kept giving them aspirin and everytime their fever went up, why I gave them aspirin. And then I didn't know what to do. We had a boy staying with us, and he said there was a doctor right down the road. He said he noticed it when he passed ~~it~~. He said, "I'll get him." When the doctor got there he said "Oh, your children have measles. What you are doing is suppressing it with aspirin, so just let it out." Sure enough when I quit <sup>the</sup> ~~aspirin~~, they all broke out in <sup>a</sup> ~~in~~ red rash. Those were miserable days.

Q: How long did you stay in the house?

A: Ah...we stayed till June first when they froze us in <sup>till</sup> ~~and~~ July ~~the~~ 15 when we left with Readly group. Daddy said, "Since we must go, let's go ahead of the group." We left two or three weeks ahead of the group to Poston II.

Q: How did you find it when you got there.

A: It was terrible. I looked at the little room. The first room they showed us was a little tiny room which was dusty and dirty



~~and~~ <sup>with</sup> cobwebs all over it. And I thought, "My gosh!! It is just like a barn. Is this where we must stay? We really felt sorry for ourselves." Then they said that they were going to move us to <sup>an</sup> other place later. But that was just as bad, it was a little bigger, that's all. It was dark. It had a double doors ~~that~~ opened up. It was just like an old type garage.

Q: How old were your children?

A: My daughter was about 8 1/2 years old. My boy just started kindergarten. No, he just finished the kindergarten and entered the first grade in Camp. The baby was 18 months old.

Q: Did things go smooth in Camp in the beginning?

A: Fairly well.

Q: How about baby food and so forth?

A: Yeah, mothers in our block got together and organized and we got Oyatsu (afternoon treats) for them and we started school.

Q: Who organized ~~the~~ mothers?

A: I was on a committee, but I didn't know how I got chosen <sup>for</sup> ~~to~~ it. Any way I was on a committee and I thought we ought to do things <sup>properly.</sup> ~~right.~~ May be we should put it on the announcement on the block bulletin board, so I went and talked to the block maneger about having our announcement made. I said, "Would you mind putting it in Japanese?" Because I thought it would be more effective. He said, "If they cannot read English, they cannot read Japanese." So that meant that



he thought most of the people in our block were very ~~illiterate~~. illiterate. That's how uneducated <sup>the</sup> mothers were in our block. There were many Japan~~as~~born mothers who didn't have very much schooling in Japan. But I didn't know that they were so poorly educated. Most of them worked ~~on~~ farms. I thought they had more education in Japan.

Q: You were older than the most of Nisei, so you must have been in <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ position of leadership, weren't you?

A: I don't know. I don't know how I did it, because if I'd known how they felt about me, I wouldn't ~~never~~ <sup>have</sup> stuck my neck out. You know, as soon as Mr. Kido was attacked I could tell by their eyes, how they felt about us. Their facial expression had changed. They really looked different.

Q: What kind of job did he have in the Camp?

A: He was working in the legal department. So I think he had to go to Camp I to work, in the legal department over there. I don't think they had it in our camp.

Q: How soon did that attach come?

A: On ~~the~~ President Roosevelt's birthday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 1943, after we had been there <sup>six</sup> ~~6~~ months. See he went in December for the JACL meeting in Salt Lake City <sup>which</sup> ~~when~~ decided that all the Nisei should be allowed to serve in the Army. That ~~was~~ the time they requested the government to rescind that ban they had using ~~N~~isei. I think that angered <sup>the</sup> Kibei group.



Because it was <sup>the</sup> Kibei who attacked him.

Q: Was he the president of JACL?

A: Yes, National.

Q: I see. Were you suspecting something like that might happen?

A: Well, they warned us just a few days before. They said something might be brewing. They told our block and the camp police <sup>who</sup> were supposed to guard us. And they were sent to watch from a <sup>laundry</sup> ~~laundry~~ room which was right across the alley from our house. They were supposed to be watching us, but I guess after several nights of watching, I guess they got very sleepy so they fell asleep that night. And they didn't know what had happen. And then Mr. Kido that night, the night of attack, was funny. He was so sleepy about 8:30pm and he couldn't keep his eyes open. So he went to bed early that night. I went to the camp latrine to take a bath around 10:30pm with our friends and came home. Everything was very quiet and we went to bed.

Everynight we had been warned, you see, so we had sticks and things were ready, just in case anybody should come in. But you know, they broke in so suddenly that we had no time to use anything. All we could do was to scream, but you know what they did was to unscrew the hinges. The door hinges were outside and they took them off, so that the door could be removed. You see ours was like a kind of old barn doors which would wide open outside. That's the kind of doors we had. And when they took both of them off, there was no way we could



stop them. Our neighbors' doors were latched so that they couldn't open ~~it~~<sup>them</sup> from inside. They used wooden bars and fastened them on the doors so that they couldn't get out to help us. One of our friends who was a big 6 footer, he jumped out of his window and came to help us. All the others couldn't get out. And one man on the end, his door wasn't locked but he didn't come out to help us. That's how we found out that he was on the other side.

Q: Then how many people came to attack?

A: I think it was six men. They were all put in prison.

Q: Did they bring any weapons?

A: You know in Arizona they have ~~these~~<sup>this</sup> Iron ~~woods~~<sup>like</sup>, those semi-petrified wood forests ~~and~~<sup>were</sup> right near our camp; I think there was lots of that. They had fashioned huge clubs with it. It was very heavy, just like iron. That's why they call it iron wood, very solid and heavy. They could hardly cut the ends off, because I saw the ones that they dropped. They had to keep it for evidence, so I never got it back. I found one that they used.

Mr. Kido cut ~~his~~<sup>it</sup> hands with a flashlight which they brought in when he grabbed ~~it~~<sup>it</sup> from them. They hit him all over the back of his head and all the way ~~down~~<sup>he was</sup> his back and ~~all~~<sup>he was</sup> black and blue for 3 to 4 weeks. So he was in a hospital for three weeks. He knew one of them. He used to work with him. So he knew who they were. This man used to work with him in San Francisco.



He worked with him in a news paper company. You see Mr. Kido used to write for the newspaper and did leagal work for them. So he knew this man. He even yelled at him. One man lost his shoe so they were able to identify him by that shoe. His shoe fell off when he ran away.

Q: Were you hurt?

A: No. They didn't hurt any of us. But the girl who was with us, she fainted.

Q: Do you know why they came to attack him?

A: I think it was because <sup>of</sup> the decision they made at JACL.

I don't remember if it was at that time about <sup>the</sup> "NO-No" business.

~~Any~~ <sup>It</sup> was right after that the questionnaire came out. I think mostly because they were mad because they had requested that ~~the~~ boys be allowed to enter the Army and Navy.

Q: How did you feel? You must have been very angry.

A: I was. Well, because I took it personally. I couldn't understand why they wanted to take out on Mr. Kido. And then they sent out a delegation from the women, from the wives of these men because they were all on trial. They wanted their husbands to be released. One of the women they represented, just had a baby. They said, "Kawaiso (pitiful)," she need<sup>d</sup> her husband, so would I put in a good word so that she would get help from her husband. I said, "Well, I am a mother, too. I have three little children and they didn't think about my children, or <sup>that</sup> I would need<sup>d</sup> help. Why should I say anything



for them, when they never thought about me and my children."

I told them. So they went away. They understood. I told them that. After that I was so angry <sup>that</sup> they had the nerve <sup>to</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>think</sup> ~~thought~~ about their side and why they didn't think about me and my children. And then you know my older boy, he suffered quite a bit in camp. I didn't know it, but one of the mothers told me that her own boy told her that my boy who was only five, I don't think he was six yet, every time he went to the latrine kids were beating him up in there. I think they threatened him there that if he told then they would give him a worse <sup>beating</sup>. And every time he went to the toilet they were beating him up. I didn't know it ~~x~~ until one of the mother told me <sup>what was</sup> ~~that's~~ what happening. I don't know what I did then. I couldn't go in with him when he went to the latrine on the men's side. I don't remember whether I let him do shi-shi at home or not. I don't remember what <sup>I</sup> ~~did~~ did for him. I heard that they used to take <sup>towels</sup> ~~towels~~ and make knots and whip ~~he~~ him and beat him with it. And that was because his father was ~~a~~ JACL President.

Q: How long did this kind of harrasment continue?

A: We left camp right away. No, it wasn't right a way. We wanted to leave right away after that happened, you know, that happened in January. But we didn't get to leave the camp till ~~in~~ March, sometime in March. Because Mr. Kido was cleared, but I wasn't cleared. The reason why I wasn't cleared was that I had requested...in order to leave camp I had to have recomendations from my friends outside, my Hakujin friends.



They said <sup>the</sup> more you have the better. So I asked six of my friends, "Please write letters of recommendation for me, so that I can leave the camp." These notes are supposed to be sent to FBI." Well, I didn't know that three ~~was~~ enough. But see, they said <sup>the</sup> more you have the better, so I wrote six of my friends, and one of my friends lived in Iowa. Her husband was a doctor in the Army, so he gets sent ~~to~~ all over. They were in Iowa at that time. She said that...She wrote to me afterward and said, "I'm sorry my letter to the FBI was so late, we were snowed in and I thought it had to be typewritten and I had to go to church to borrow the typewriter in order to send it." So that's why it was delayed, and it must have been several weeks delay, because until her letter went through, they didn't let us out. I thought it was so tragic, because you know all the time we were scared while we were in camp. Even after that, after we moved to Sdlt Lake City I was afraid to open any of my windows at night. I had this fear of being attacked all the time. So even in the hot summer night I kept all our windows locked.

Q: This kind of experience will give you a deep scar.

A: Yeah. I'm telling you, I'm always afraid ever since.

Q: You really suffered from Japanese people more than the white.

A: Yes. I think <sup>that the</sup> Japanese were more vicious. (laugh) I don't know, White Americans were too, but in their case I didn't take it so personally.



Q: While you were still in Camp, did your neighbors come around to your side?

A: You mean <sup>the</sup> Japanese in Camp? Most of the people in our block were very good. Yeah, because all the attackers were from other blocks. The man on the end of our block was not involved in the attack. In fact he is a very active JACL man now. He is our age. Well, he was only in his 20's in Camp, so much younger than we were.

Q: How do you feel when you see those people who used to be anti-JACL, are now very active JACL?

A: I know there are lots of them.

Q: How do you feel when you see them now?

A: Well, they might have had a change of heart. Or else it's expediency, you know. They were going to do good so that they would look good at that time. I think that's the way they are. They would go with the wind, you know. I wouldn't trust them in a pinch, you know. ~~But~~ I wouldn't know how they stand or I wouldn't know how they would defied. If I should ever ask something very important, I would be afraid to go by what they said. I don't know what happen<sup>d</sup> to the man who came to a few days before the attack. He came over, somebody I never knew came over and asked me, "By any chance would you have some matches I could borrow?" I thought how funny. He wasn't anybody from our block. And I gave him some matches. I think he just wanted to look inside of our house, how we had our house



fixed. He came in to the house, so that he could see in. So I thought he must have been the front man afterwards. I felt that way, he was somebody I didn't know.

Q: It was kind of cold blooded and methodic, wasn't it?

A: Yeah, they had everything planned. Look what happened, bars were made for every house~~s~~ and tied ~~it~~ to the doors so that they couldn't get out. Everything was planed. They <sup>unscrewed</sup> ~~unscrewed~~ all hinges, while I was dead <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ the world. I didn't hear any squeaking sound or anything.

Q: What happened to those six men?

A: They served one and a half to three years in <sup>the</sup> Arizona State Prison.

Q: They were taken out of the Camp?

A: Oh, yes. They were all taken out of the Camp. Funny thing happened you know. A few years ago while we were living in Los Angeles, you see ~~we~~ moved up here a few years ago, Well, a year or so before we moved up here, a Japanese couple moved next door to us. And we said Good Morning to them and all that. The land lady was a Hakujin lady whom I used to go visit, so I asked her about the new neighbor, and she said that they were working and you know. So I said, "Well, <sup>if</sup> ~~he~~ knows anything about Bonsai, ~~ask~~ <sup>ask</sup> him to come over and help me." So she said, "All<sup>l</sup>right, I will." So I thought it would be neighborly and all that. He told the lady that he didn't <sup>know</sup> ~~know~~ anything



about Bonsai. Anyway he just said good morning or something and never got friendly. Well, one night I heard <sup>a</sup> knock on my door and his wife came over. She said, "Please help me. I'm afraid of my husband, because he is beating me up. Please let me stay with you tonight," ~~be~~ Because she came very late at night, you know. It was almost 12 O'clock. Mr. Kido was already, you know he got sick, he had his stroke in 1970 you see. So it was a year or so afterward when she came over and she said, "Please let me stay with you. I'm afraid of my husband." So I said, "Allright." I had an extra bed downstairs, which Mr. Kido used to rest in because he had ~~heart~~ <sup>heart</sup> attack in 1968 and he couldn't go up and down the stairs to our bedroom. So the doctor said to keep him down stairs. He couldn't go up stairs any more. So we bought an extra bed and had it in our dinning room. So I told her that she could stay there. And we would go up stairs. By that time he could go up stairs. So I told her that she could stay there. Then she told us that her husband was one of the men who had attacked Mr. Kido. That's why he refused to get friendly with us. And then she was having an awful time with her husband. She had married him just a few months before that happened. And at the time he married her, he had promised her that she could call her daughter who was in high school in Japan. She was to go to high school here. He promised her that he would let her call her daughter, and ~~that was the agreement that~~ that would be the agreement if she married him. So she said she would marry him if he would let her call her daughter.



Ok. They called her daughter. Her daughter was going to a high school. But she needs "Kozukai" (spending money), and this man (even though) he had a very nice job, what he did was...he had a <sup>crew</sup>~~crew~~, you know, he and his wife and several helpers and they contracted <sup>to</sup> clean hotels and apartments and office buildings and he had whole list of these places where he made his rounds to ~~do~~ clean up. And he had his wife helping him, too. So his wife thought it was alright that he should give her Kozukai so that she could give it to her daughter. But he said he ~~needed~~ every penny, because he was saving it all so that he could start <sup>a</sup> business in Japan. So he didn't want to help her. And she thought she was entitled to that, because she helped him work, you know. She worked with him. So that's what they used to fight about. And then because they used to fight about this he beat her up. You know, he locked her up in a room so that she couldn't get out. He didn't want the landlady, Hakuji lady to know that she was beating her, so he locked her up in the bedroom and used to beat her. And this time she ran away from him and came over, and said that this was what had been going on. Then she did get away from him and got a job at Rafu Shimpō (Japanese American bilingual newspaper). She picked "Katsuji" (letters) for the paper and she was working there. He found out that she was working there. I think she was staying with her sister. She had a married sister not too far away from us. So he went over and beat her up, he beat her up around her face so she couldn't go out in public. That's <sup>the</sup> first time he beat her



up on her face, you know. He made her all black and blue. She looked so bad that she was ashamed to go and tell them <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~ the newspaper what happened. She stayed home hidden and it all healed and then she got her devorce.

And then after that happened, <sup>the</sup> FBI came over, no immigration came over and asked me about her and her husband. ~~He~~ wanted to know what kind of a woman she was, because her husband was trying to ~~devorce~~ her, because she wouldn't stay <sup>married</sup> ~~marry~~ to him. He said that she used the marrige as a <sup>ruse</sup> ~~root~~ to stay in this country. So I said, "No. This is what happend." Besides, I told him, you know, what he had done before attacking my husband and everything in Camp. I said that I believe what the woman said. So he said, "Thank you very much." So she got to stay. It was really terrible.

Q: Then you went to Salt Lake City?

A: Yes. Before we went to Salt Lake City, my mother died. She was in Topaz, Utah. So as soon as we got out of the Camp, we had to go to the funeral. When we went to the funeral, Mr. Kido got pneumonia, you see it was very hard because of the beating and everything and he wasn't very strong. And then going to Topaz was very cold, because we came from Poston Arizona where it was not that cold. It was a different kind of coldness. Topaz was in a desert and was very dry, and was very cold. My mother died and we went to the funeral and then Mr. Kido stayed in the Topaz camp. You know Topaz Camp had



trouble, too. That's when Chura Obata got beat up. Chura Obata might have been in <sup>the</sup> hospital at that time, I don't know.

Q: Was he a JACL member, too?

A: No. He was an art professor, an Issei, at the University of California. He <sup>just</sup> ~~just~~ died recently. Any way, I think he was one of the block managers or leaders in Topaz and <sup>the</sup> Kibei started acting up, you know, and I think he asked them to be more orderly, and not get so loud and boisterous. He must have said something like, "Abarenasanna" (Don't make too ~~much~~ <sup>many</sup> waves) or something. I don't think he got real mad at them or anything. He just told them that they should be more "sunao" (mild), and not so wild. Well, they didn't like that, so they went and beat him up with gas pipes. So he suffered quite a bit, too.

Well, anyway, Mr. Kido was in Camp for, I mean in <sup>the</sup> Topaz Camp for two <sup>or</sup> three weeks. So I had to come back alone to Salt Lake City. I took one of my brothers with me from Camp and we clean<sup>ed</sup> the house we bought in Salt lake City so that I could get ready for my family. To show you how scared I was of the outside, I didn't even ask my neighbors to help me. I couldn't get any hot water to wash down the walls inside of the house. My brother and I used cold water and washed walls to get ready. I told my neighbors afterwards, you know, my Mormon neighbors what I had done. They said that was very foolish. I <sup>h</sup>ould've asked and they would have been more than



glad to have helped me. Because I didn't have anything installed, yet, no heater or anything.

Q: Were you afraid mainly of Japaense?

A: No. I was afraid of Hakujin (<sup>whites</sup> ~~what~~man). Well, after I was attacked in Camp, I was scared of everybody. After being attacked, I was scared of everybody. I was ~~afraid~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~even~~ go ask for any kind of a favor. I think I should have gone and talk<sup>ed</sup> to them, but it was war time and I didn't know how things were on the outside. I was really afraid. And then they were <sup>the</sup> ~~re~~ nicest people. It shows how foolish we were. They were really nice to me and so when we got ready to leave to come back to California, all the neighbors got together and gave me a farewell party. All the women in the neighborhood invited me over to say goodbye. I thought it was awfully nice of them to do that.

Q: How long were you there?

A: We stayed there from 1943 to 1946, no it was 1948. We were there for five years. ~~there.~~

Q: You had a very good experiences in Utah, then.

A: Yes. But we didn't go out much. There was a gas ration and we didn't have a car. Mr. Kido was traveling all the time in order to get help for <sup>the</sup> JACL. He was traveling all over the country. He went down South. He went down to Washington, he went to New York.



Q: Did he do this out of his own pocket?

A: No. JACL paid his expences. And then when he was in the office, the US Army wanted him as an interpretor and then he taught. They had a military training program where they taught Japanese to the GI's at the University of Utah. He taught there for about 6 months. It didn't last too long, because the Army decided not to continue. We still have contact with some of those soldiers, especially one who writes to us often. A Couple of years ago he came to visit us.

Q: Is he Hakujin (White)?

A: Yes, Hakujin.

Q: People in Utah <sup>had</sup> never seen Japanese before, right?

A: No. There were many Japanese there before the war, though very few. They were pretty nice. Of course we didn't get to go out, too much. So I couldn't tell (too much about that).

Q: You said that you came back to California in 1948. Did you want to come back to California?

A: Yes. I wanted to come back to Berkeley. I wanted to go back to the old house. But just before we came back, Mr. Kido decided that there was no point in going back to Berkeley. If he was going to do any work at all for Japanese Americans, he had to go to Los Angeles. So he changed his mind about going back to Berkeley and sold the house and moved to Los Angeles.



Q: So till a few years ago you lived in Los Angeles.

A: Yes, till 1972. We lived there 25 years.

Q: What kind of work did he do there?

A: Well, he was an attorney and for 13 years he ran a newspaper and lost his shirt. Then he went back to doing law, but he had a heart attack and several strokes. He was sick for the last 10 years.

Q: Was he still the President of JACL?

A: No. 1946 was the last year for it. He was the president for two terms, no three terms from 1940 to 1946.

Q: After the war was the reconstruction period for Japanese people. What kind of thing did you or Mr. Kido get involved in?

A: After we moved to Los Angeles they started this planning the Evacuation Reparation. That took most of our energy. From 1949 they started to activate it and the whole business took till 1959, ten years. It was that whole evacuation claims<sup>\*</sup> process. We were...after they started to get people interested, I was off and on in his office. And then I went with him when he made trips to various communities to talk to Japanese people to get them interested <sup>and</sup> ~~in~~ help them fill out different forms<sup>x</sup> ~~96~~ that they could get somekind of evacuation claims. It took lots of research and study to get ready for it. I used to help him. I did lots of work at home, too, like interviewing people at home. If I didn't go to the office, I was doing it



at home. By that time my children were all going to school.

Q: Did you say that Mr. Kido <sup>also</sup> ~~also~~ worked in a newspaper office?

A: He bought a newspaper company. I asked him not to buy it.

I said, "Do you know what you are getting into? Please don't buy it." I got real angry, because he had already bought it, before he told me. He told me after he bought it. I got real angry, but he had already bought it. This was in Los Angeles. It was called "Shin Nichibei". Any way, Mr. Kido called it New Japanese-American News Paper. It started out to be <sup>a</sup> weekly when it was started, and <sup>then</sup> ~~it~~ was made into <sup>a</sup> daily. Mr. Kido continued it but he lost it. So he sold it after 13 years. But the people he sold it <sup>just</sup> ~~just~~ let it go and <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ got worse. They tried to have someone else take over and that person got ready to start <sup>the</sup> weekly when the government seize it, because they hadn't payed withholding taxes <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ all the employees. So they accumulated two to three years of withholding tax. It was closed down and then this man who was going to take the paper over ~~ran~~ away to Japan. This man just payed the deposit, but since <sup>the</sup> government took it over, he had no money to start it over again. We don't know what happen<sup>d</sup> to that man. So the clean up was left to us. It came to us because <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ charter(?) mortgage was with Mr. Kido still, because it hadn't been payed for. So we had to clean that all up. Than Mr. Kido had a heart attack and then in 1970 he had a stroke and he's been disabled ever since.



Q: He was running the news paper and also working as an attorney, right?

A: Yes. But after he got sick he wasn't able to do too much.

Q: I would like to go back a little bit. When the war ended how did you feel?

A: Well, I felt terrible because <sup>of</sup> what they did, atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which was totally unnecessary. I argued with my Hakujin neighbors that that was uncalled for. That was a terrible thing they did. But they <sup>said</sup> ~~saw~~ it that it was allright because the government was doing it and it would save lots of American lives. That's what they felt. But if they had waited a little longer, they found out that Japan had no more munitions, they had nothing left. I heard when <sup>the</sup> occupation <sup>forces</sup> went in, they didn't even have gasoline to run trucks to greet <sup>in</sup> ~~on~~ coming delegations that <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ coming into occupy. One of my friends was with the occupation <sup>forces</sup> at that time, he said that he heard them muttering, "How are we going to get <sup>the</sup> trucks move <sup>ing</sup> and how are we going to greet <sup>the</sup> the officials." That's how bad off <sup>the</sup> Japanese were.

Q: After you came back to California, did you have any contact with those Kibeis who attacked Mr. Kido?

A: No. I never met any of them. I heard that one man was very active in West Los Angeles. I think he is a prominent JACL and very prominent Buddhist Church member. But I never met him. But he was so young, too, to to get involved in things



like that. He was only 18 years old when he did things like that in Camp. They didn't go back to their homes <sup>either</sup> ~~either~~, they were from Salinas, I think. They moved to West LA and became very prominent in West LA.

Q: Are you still bitter about the attack?

A: I think I am. Because lots of what he is suffering now may have stemmed from that. Because it hit his brain and all. He had <sup>a</sup>concussion, you know.

Q: It also caused much suffering on the part of children.

A: Yes...

Q: Do you think about it often?

A: I don't know. It ~~all~~ <sup>is</sup> into history now. After all it happened in 1943, so...

Q: When you came back to Los Angeles, were you still afraid of people?

A: Well, I don't know... I don't get too close ~~d~~ to people. Another reason is that I don't have opportunity to, because the way I am situated, you know. All I can do is to take care of my husband, so I don't have <sup>the</sup> opportunity to go out and meet people.

Q: Kind of treatment you received from people, even after the attack makes you feel very cau~~s~~ious, doesn't it?

A: Yeah...I think you don't...you can't get too close to people.



Well, when we went on a trip to Japan, the first trip, we went to contact some of those people who might want to come back. You know after they went back to Japan... Some of those people left from Camp to go back to Japan, because they wanted to. We went to a meeting once in Tokyo where lots of old former residents came, and you know one man stood up and apologized for their actions. He said he was one of them and he said that now that everything was over, he realized that what they did was wrong. He asked Mr. Kido to forgive and overlook what had been done during the war. That was in Japan. I think he was one of those Tule Lake people, eight~~er~~-one <sup>or</sup> of so called <sup>the</sup> "no-no" group who wanted to be repatriated.

You know they all had <sup>the</sup> a same idea, but we had the same thoughts with the Kibei. We felt the same way, I mean about the treatments <sup>the</sup> that Japanese got. We had the same feelings, but I don't think we took it out on our own people, like <sup>the</sup> Kibeis did. They wanted somebody to vent their wrath on. I guess <sup>the</sup> Nisei were the only people they could get at, because they couldn't get after the government or any Hakujin.

Q: It was a tremendous period, wasn't it?

A: It's too bad. Mr. Kido should have written about it, when he had a chance. And all the articles he did write were lost now. All the bound copies were destroyed when the new management took over. So we have no records, and then the articles



which Mr. Kido sent to <sup>the</sup> Pacific Citizen, were sent to National Headquarters. But even they were lost. Somebody must <sup>have</sup> decided to throw <sup>them</sup> away when they were cleaning up the storeroom, or <sup>they</sup> never got <sup>to</sup> Salt Lake City. So that means they got thrown off the Rail Road, you know, or our <sup>freight</sup> ~~fruit~~ was lost. We don't know what happened. So lots of things are missing.

Q: Some of his articles are in the news paper, right?

A: Yes, but the bounded ~~ed~~ copies of the newspaper, Pacific Citizens, were lost somewhere on the way to Sdlt Lake City. So all those are gone, now. He asked me to keep a diary when we were in camp. And I thought that would be terrible such an awful thing I would like to forget all if I could, I told him. But now I wish I had kept a diary, but I didn't.

Q: You lived through one of the most critical times for Japanese-Americans especially from the point of view of Japanese-American relationship. Nisei were exposed to the ~~blunt~~ of the worst of it.

A: Yeah, because we were older.

Q: After living through all these crises, do you have anything to teach young people about life? what would you say to your

A: grandchildren?

A: (laugh) I went to visit my father when he was...you know my father and mother died in camp, 10 months apart, and When I went to visit my father, I told him how terrible America



was to us and I said that I was very bitter about it. Because you see, my father's good friend was a chief of police, as I told you, well he became a FBI director of Riverside afterwards. During the war My father wasn't picked up, you know, though all the other Japanese were picked up. Almost all the Japanese men were picked up, except my father. Then my father and mother were both sick, my mother had a stroke and my father had an arth<sup>?</sup>oretic heart. This FBI director came over and cried to him and said he was terribly sorry but he was not allowed to remain in Riverside and all Japanese had to be sent to camp. He wanted us to remain there because he knew my father. He would vouch for him but he could not keep him in Riverside. So my father and mother who were both sick in bed, were sent to Sacramento to my brother who was a doctor, and then sent to an Assembly Center. In all the Centers they went, they had to be sent to a hospital, and then they finally went to Tule Lake, because my brother was sent to Tule lake and then from Tule Lake they were sent to Topaz. Then they died in Topaz.

Before my father passed away, I told him that it was terrible that we got treated like this, that we should hate America for what they've done to us. He said, no he still loved America. He told us not to feel like that. He said that America was a great country and we should always be loyal. I said, "How can you say those things when you suffered so much?" He said America was still a great country."



Q: Do you feel the same way <sup>as</sup> with your father, now?

A: Well, it's kind of hard, you know. Well, I guess I can't help it. I often wondered how he could have felt that way. He always said that America was a great country. I guess we have to wait until things get straightened out, because this country is under <sup>a</sup> terrific strain. May be someday it will be the way it should be.

Q: Then you did feel that it was a great injustice that you were put in Camp.

A: Oh, yes. I went several times to the WCCA or something where they were supposed to help the evacuees to straighten out things to store and things. Well, they told me to get rid of everything and just take what you really need. We had to get rid of everything. That wasn't right, that's what I told them. It was very difficult to do things like that. But they weren't able to help us in that way. We went to Fresno, but they, the Government, changed its <sup>mind</sup> ~~mind~~. So we stored everything in a government warehouse, so that's where we left everything. But when we sent for them from Salt Lake, it took about 8 months before we got our things. Before we got them, we sat on boxes and things. We also borrowed from a friend in Topaz who sent their things to us. They said whenever government had any things to sent shipment to the Camp, that's when they would send our things to us. So it took <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ awfully longtime. We got out in March and we didn't get it till October. It took 8 months. The man who was in charge of it and send it out



to us, of course he didn't know that our shipment <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ side tracked, you know everytime other things had to go through, they side tracked all those things. That's why it took 8 months. It was only <sup>a</sup> ~~by~~ couple <sup>of</sup> states away. This man died recently.

Mr. Morita who died recently

Q: There will be no more Nisei, you know. Issei were very unique and Nisei were more unique in a sense that you are the first generation of Americans and yet you had to go through this kind of experience. You must be very bitter, and it is very natural I think.

A: It doesn't do any good, though. No. But then they say Nisei, the quiet Americans, that we don't talk about it. That's true. We didn't talk about it to our children, either. But you see how it comes out ~~it~~ they show bitterness, like Wendy Yoshimura. Because her parents went through <sup>an</sup> awful a lot. They were Terminal Island Fisherman and they got picked up within 24 hours and they lost everything. So I know how some other must felt about. Of course they couldn't ask anything because they repatriated and went back to Japan. They couldn't get anything, because of the Evacuation Laws, so they had to start all over. They had to start all over twice, once when they had to start all over again in Japan, and when they came back to the USA. All <sup>this</sup> ~~these~~ background of bitterness, it's no wonder that the girl like that should come out. If she didn't think straight, you could hardly help her.



Q: Is there any value to this experience? Is there anything which you<sup>d</sup> like to tell Sansei?

A: Well, what they should do is to work to make it better, make America better in every way. Politically, too, this country is in a mess. Things are really bad, but they didn't start now. It's been coming on for years and may be two ~~or~~ three different turns of changes in government, you know, but it hasn't gotten better because we have been overlooking lots of things. People should be more careful. They've got to think. I think we have to study more ethics; our morals are not right, you know. Thinking of their own selves, and not for the good of people. That's the way with politics now. They are not ~~the~~ thinking about the whole country.

Q: Are you bitter toward Japanese poeple, too?

A: I don't know.

Q: How about Kibei's?

A: Well, may be they are that way because they got sent to Japan and raised in Japan. That's why they are like that. There are nice ones, too. I know some nice people. May be ~~that~~ you can't lump them all together, because you have to...

Q: Mr. Kido continued to work for Japanese people, even after the war, didn't he?

A: Yes. He loved his people. Mr. Kido did ~~lot~~ more (than people know). You see we were evacuated in March, but he stayed with ~~the~~



Japanese people from March to June in San Francisco. He moved from one district to the next until every Japanese was gone. That's the promise he made <sup>to</sup> with the Japanese people in San Francisco, that he would stay with them till every one was gone. It was the time of evacuation

Q: You moved to Visalia, didn't you?

A: Yes, but he didn't. Me and children moved but he didn't. Mr. Kido stayed with the people in San Francisco. He moved from one district to the next, until the last Japanese left San Francisco, and then he came to Visalia. At that time he was told not to stay there too long, ~~that~~ to go directly to Salt Lake, because they knew that it was to be the National Office. They said as soon as you leave San Francisco, as soon as possible please go to Salt Lake. But he told them that he had to see his family first, so he came to us. But it was within two or three days after he came to us to Visalia, when they announced that all Japanese in California had to go to Camp. They used the excuse that Japanese bombed the Dutch Harbor, in Alaska, or they saw submarines there or something. They used that as <sup>an</sup> ~~the~~ excuse to move all Japanese from the West Coast. He was so angry, because they promised that they would never move people from the free area. So when we got that word in June then he said, "Well, then, we better get ready to move out with the ~~the~~ first group," So ~~that~~ we did. As soon as they <sup>made</sup> ~~gave~~ an announcement ~~that~~ which group was going to leave Visalia first, so we moved in with them.



He moved, he had to move out of the office, then he moved in to the Aki Hotel, and then he moved to down town to a Hotel on Geary and then he came to Visalia. Yes. Mr. Kido had a rough time. And when he was in Visalia we got the freeze order. He thought and thought and cried. He wanted to make a test case. He said he was willing to go to a jail. But then he start worrying about women and children. He wandered what would happen to them if he didn't go with them. He thought then may be he should go with us. Someday, he thought, someday later may be we can get our rights back. That's what he decided.

Q: If I have your permission, I would like to let students listen to this interview. Would this be OK?

A: Well, I don't care. It'll be alright. I don't think it will hurt. Words didn't come out right, I'm afraid.

Q: Later we might publish something, and at that time we might use a portion or entire interview...(end of tape 2)

A: There was something that I <sup>signed</sup> ~~signed~~ which said that my father refused ~~to~~ citizenship rights, but I cannot recall that. And I never said things like that. Someone said that it's in the national archive, and I never said things like that. So may be <sup>the</sup> FBI has been documenting people, so they might have done that. They might have asked me that in the Camp, but I never said that he refused the Citizenship rights, because



he was wanting it all his life. So why should I say anything like that, why should I lie? So... My daughter said that she read it, but I said I never recall saying things like that. Why should my afather refuse the citizenship right when he was fighting for it all the time. Why did he keep asking the Navy, why should he be contacting the Navy all the time, and then refuse it. Yeah...

Q: Would you like to <sup>sign</sup> ~~sing~~ this for me? It says something about letting students hear it and letting us have the literary right.

A: If I ever use others' names, I don't want that. Yes, I did use a few names, and I don't want that to come up. I don't want anyone to get embarrassed.

Q: We usually take names out.

A: Yes, would you do that. My parents, and my family are OK, but anybody outside of the family I <sup>mentioned</sup> ~~mentioned~~, I would like to have them deleted.

Q: OK. I would do that.

Q: Would you tell me about Mr. Kido and Gov. Olson?

A: He order<sup>ed</sup> Mr. Kido to come to <sup>his</sup> ~~him~~ office. He was very surprised to see it. So he went. He saw many Japanese there whom he had never seen in his life. And I don't think he ever saw them afterwords, or anyone ever admitted being at that meeting. You know people there were supposed to be leaders, but he didn't



know what kind of leaders they were. And what shocked him was that everyone of them said, "We are ready to go. When shall we leave." He was the only one who said, "No." He didn't think that evacuating everybody was right. They had no right to order Japanese Americans to get out. They said, "Allright, if you don't leave, we'll get <sup>the militia</sup> ~~malicia~~ out." So that means that we are going to be forced out by the Army. So he said, "In that case we will leave, because we don't want any violence. We don't want any bloodshed." So all the newspapers came out and said, "National JACL President was 'truculent'," that he was against evacuation and no one stood up for him. Mr. Kido was the only one. Mr. Kido said, "There was no one who stood up for me in that Japanese group." But he said that that place was crowded with Japanese people. ~~It~~ It looked like they might have planted those people there. They might have been people who were working for him, or <sup>the</sup> chauffeur or gardeners or that type of people. They were not businessmen or tradesmen. They looked like those who worked for the governor. And I always wanted to know who those people were. There was another time when he was called. At that time Walter Tsukamoto was there, but he couldn't say anything because he was in the Army. He was a former president, but then his hands were tied and couldn't say anything against the government. He was a reserve officer. He was already called to ~~an~~ active service.



Q: Do you have anymore things to add to this?

A: What you are aiming at is around the time of evacuation, isn't it?

Q: Not exactly. I am interested in your life from the beginning to the present.

A: Oh.

Q: When I finish transcribing this, I'll send it to you so that you can add more stories to it. Well, thank you very much.

A: That's OK.